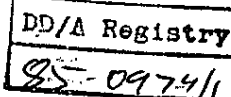


Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505



8 APR 1985

Ambassador Morton I. Abramowitz
Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

In response to your letter of 15 March to the Director pertaining to SAFE technology, we appreciated your update on INR's information handling project. The Intelligence Community Staff's recommendations certainly have provided sound guidance in identifying INR's information handling requirements as well as some reasonable approaches to solving them. In retrospect, it should not surprise any of us that SAFE is a natural solution to these needs, given the similarity of analyst's functions in the Intelligence Community agencies.

While INR's study contractor recommended a scaled-down version of SAFE in quantitative terms, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) cautions me that such a system will require a very sophisticated support team--contract monitors, requirements analysts, systems programmers, user support analysts--much like SAFE. They suggest that building such a team may be one of the most demanding tasks in satisfying INR's information handling needs. Further, they suggest this building process should start quickly. To help INR, OIT proposes working with your team--even meld them into our offices for on-the-job training, so to speak, if they meet the same security standards required of CIA and DIA personnel.

Unfortunately, your request that our Project Office commit additional funds and personnel to INR comes at a time when we can least afford to divert these resources from SAFE. The type of support you seek to determine the transferability of the SAFE technology must remain focused on completing the SAFE development. At this point, I believe CIA and DIA's need for a stable SAFE must be attained before we dilute the efforts underway.

It is clear that the discussions between your technical people in Mr. James Fazio's office, [redacted] from SAFE Project Office, and the IC Staff representatives have been constructive. They should be elevated to the technical level but not at the expense of slowing SAFE implementation in CIA and DIA.

[redacted]
[redacted]
Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration



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